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ISU CVM Honors Three Alumni with Stange Award

ERIC VYMSLICKY[†]

This year, the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is honoring Dr. Kenneth Bartels, Dr. Joseph Sexton, and Dr. Kenneth Wilcke with the Stange Award. The three ISU alumni also visited campus in October and held a question and answer session on the future direction of veterinary medicine.

Dr. Bartels, DVM, MS is a 1973 graduate of ISU and a native of Clinton, IA. He earned international recognition for his research efforts in both human and veterinary medicine. Currently he is the McCasland Professor of Laser Surgery at Oklahoma State University, and director of the OSU Laser Laboratory. He helped develop the laser laboratory there, which is now considered by most to be the foremost veterinary biomedical laser facility in the country.

Veterinarians should keep up to date with new technology due to the information explosion, according to advice given by Dr. Bartels. As part of that process he stresses the profession needs to "be objective with new technology," and sort out what will be beneficial to our patients, while still being economically feasible. He urges to veterinarians to involve themselves on the internet; he believes future involvement online and networking with others will be essential for diagnosing and treating patients effectively. Most of all, Dr. Bartels challenges students and new graduates to get involved in their community and become an active member in extracurricular organizations. "Don't let studying get in the way of your education," he says.

Dr. Joseph Sexton, DVM, MS, is a 1942 graduate of ISU, and became a large animal practitioner in northeast Iowa. He returned for his MS in veterinary pathology nearly thirty years later, however, and shifted his career to focus on teaching. He

accepted a faculty position in the Department of Clinical Sciences at ISU. He is also former president of the IVMA.

Dr. Sexton urges students to pursue a field of veterinary medicine that they enjoy and are good at. "Veterinary medicine is so vast that we just can't be good at everything," he says. He is definitely an advocate of specialization in veterinary medicine, and encourages veterinarians to find a medical field to focus on that interests them.

Dr. Kenneth Wilcke, DVM, graduated from ISU in 1960, upon which he entered private practice. He was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1962, and eventually returned to private practice in Walcott, IA. He has consistently been a leader and innovator in veterinary medicine. In the 1970s he built an award-winning hospital, most notably designed to improve patient services. He was president of the IVMA in 1996, and extended his leadership to public policy where he led a legislative initiative to increase state appropriations for the Iowa Livestock Advisory Council. The funds have had a significant impact on research in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the state of Iowa's livestock industry.

"A good veterinarian should concentrate heavily on having a compassionate heart and a servant's attitude," is Dr. Wilke's key to success. From his experience, building strong relationships with one's community and with other veterinarians are essential.

The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes and congratulates this year's Stange Award recipients on their commendable accomplishments and intellectual gifts they have offered to the veterinary profession. ♦

*Biographical Information by
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